

REMARKS

Applicant hereby affirms the election of Group I, claim 1-6, 10-12, 25-27 and 31-34. Applicant has therefore canceled claims 7-9. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected Group.

The Examiner has indicated the claims 31-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 10, 11, 25, and 31-34 and rewritten each of the claims as new independent claims, namely claims 35-38 respectively. New claim 35 is a combination of previous claim 1 and 31. New claim 36 is a combination of previous claims 10 and 32. New claim 37 is a combination of previous claims 11 and 33. New claim 38 is a combination of previous claims 25 and 34. The dependency of the remaining claims has been amended to depend from one of the rewritten allowed claims. Applicant asserts that no new matter was added by this amendment.

Claims 1, 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon (U.S. 4,617,557). Because of the amendments to the claims as provided above, applicant asserts that this rejection has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

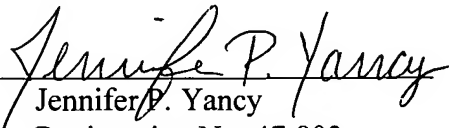
Claims 2-4, 6, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Niemiec (U.S. 6,411,567). Because of the amendments to the claims as provided above, applicant asserts that this rejection has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Claims 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon. Because of the amendments to the claims as provided above, applicant asserts that this rejection has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Claims 31-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated above, applicant has provided new claims 35-38 which are rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, applicant asserts that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the art rejections are overcome and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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